

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. to 43. (canceled)
44. A monoclonal antibody or an antigen-binding portion thereof that specifically binds the capsular polysaccharide glucuronoxylomannan (GXM) of *Cryptococcus neoformans*, wherein said antibody or portion comprises:
 - (a) a heavy chain amino acid sequence utilizing a human VH 3-64 gene or a human VH-6-1 gene;
 - (b) a light chain amino acid sequence utilizing a human V κ A27 gene; or
 - (c) both (a) and (b).
45. The antibody according to claim 44, wherein the antibody comprises CDR1, CDR2 and CDR3 amino acid sequences selected from the group consisting of:
 - (a) the heavy chain CDR1, CDR2 and CDR3 amino acid sequences of SEQ ID NO: 43;
 - (b) the heavy chain CDR1, CDR2 and CDR3 amino acid sequences of SEQ ID NO: 47;
 - (c) the heavy chain CDR1, CDR2 and CDR3 amino acid sequences of SEQ ID NO: 51;
 - (d) light chain CDR1, CDR2 and CDR3 amino acid sequences of SEQ ID NO: 1;
 - (e) light chain CDR1, CDR2 and CDR3 amino acid sequences of SEQ ID NO: 5
 - (f) light chain CDR1, CDR2 and CDR3 amino acid sequences of SEQ ID NO: 9;
 - (g) the heavy chain CDR amino acid sequence of (a) and the light chain CDR amino acid sequence of (d);

(h) the heavy chain CDR amino acid sequence of (b) and the light chain CDR amino acid sequence of (e); and

(i) the heavy chain CDR amino acid sequence of (c) and the light chain CDR amino acid sequence of (f),

or an antigen-binding portion of said antibody.

46. The monoclonal antibody or an antigen-binding portion according to claim 44, wherein wherein said antibody or portion comprises amino acid sequences selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) the V_H amino acid sequence found in SEQ ID NO: 43;
- (b) the V_H amino acid sequence found in SEQ ID NO: 47;
- (c) the V_H amino acid sequence found in SEQ ID NO: 51;
- (d) the V_L amino acid sequence found in SEQ ID NO: 1;
- (e) the V_L amino acid sequence found in SEQ ID NO: 5;
- (f) the V_L amino acid sequence found in SEQ ID NO: 9;
- (g) the V_H amino acid sequence found in SEQ ID NO: 43 and the V_L amino acid sequence found in SEQ ID NO: 1;
- (h) the V_H amino acid sequence found in SEQ ID NO: 47 and the V_L amino acid sequence found in SEQ ID NO: 5; and
- (i) the V_H amino acid sequence found in SEQ ID NO: 51 and the V_L amino acid sequence found in SEQ ID NO: 9.

47. The monoclonal antibody or an antigen-binding portion according to claim 44, wherein said antibody or portion comprises amino acid sequences selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) the heavy chain amino acid sequence found in SEQ ID NO: 43 and the light chain amino acid sequence found in SEQ ID NO: 1;
- (b) the heavy chain amino acid sequence found in SEQ ID NO: 47 and the light chain amino acid sequence found in SEQ ID NO: 5; and
- (c) the heavy chain amino acid sequence found in SEQ ID NO: 51 and the light chain amino acid sequence found in SEQ ID NO: 9

48. A nucleic acid molecule encoding the antibody or antigen-binding portion according to any one of claims 44-47.
49. A cell line selected from the group consisting of G14F7E5 (ATCC Accession No. PTA-5170), G15B4G5 (ATCC Accession No. PTA-5171) or G19B9G7 (ATCC Accession No. PTA-5172).
50. The nucleic acid molecule according to claim 49, operably linked to an expression control sequence.
51. A host cell transformed with a nucleic acid molecule according to any of claims 49 or 50.
52. A method for producing an antibody or an antigen binding fragment thereof that specifically binds *C. neoformans* GXM, comprising the step of culturing a host cell according to claim 51.
53. A composition comprising the antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof according to any one of claims 44-47, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.
54. The composition according to claim 53, further comprising a component selected from the group consisting of:
 - (a) a diagnostic agent; and
 - (b) a therapeutic agent.
55. A kit comprising the antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof according to any one of claims 44-47.
56. A method for preventing or reducing the severity of conditions or disorders caused by *C. neoformans* infection in a subject in need thereof comprising the step of administering an effective amount of the

antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof according to any one of claims 1-4 or a composition according to any one of claims 53 or 54.

57. A method for increasing the resistance of a subject in need thereof to infection by *C. neoformans* or to conditions or disorders caused by such infection, comprising the step of administering the antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof according to any one of claims 1-4 or a composition according to any one of claims 53 or 54.
58. The method according to claim 56 or 57, wherein the subject is:
 - (a) immunocompromised;
 - (b) infected with HIV-1; or
 - (c) lacks one or more human V_H 3 family genes.
59. The method according to any one of claims 56-57, wherein the anti-*C. neoformans* GXM antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof is administered in conjunction with the administration of another therapeutic agent.
60. A method for detecting *C. neoformans* infection comprising contacting a sample from a subject suspected of being infected with an antibody or antigen-binding fragment according to any one of claims 44-47 and detecting the binding of said antibody or fragment to *C. neoformans* GXM.
61. The antibody or antigen-binding portion according to any one of claims 44-47 which is derived from a non-human transgenic animal.
62. The antibody or antigen-binding portion according to claim 61, wherein the non-human transgenic animal is a XenoMouse® animal.